

# SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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## TRENDS IN LIQUOR CONSUMPTION

Per capita consumption of liquor consumption in the United States, which has been steadily growing since Repeal, took a slight downward turn in the fiscal year July 1, 1937-June 30, 1938, according to figures released by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Figures compiled by the Methodist Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals and published in The Voice for November, 1938, covering the period 1840-1910 (Table I) shows a steady decrease in per capita consumption of distilled spirits and a rapid increase in the use of malt liquors, especially after 1890.

Table I - Per Capita Consumption of Liquor, 1840-1910. In gallons

Year	Spirits	Wines	Malt Liquors	Total
1840	2.52	0.29	1.36	4.17
1850	2.23	.27	1.58	4.08
1860	2.86	.35	3.22	6.43
1870	2.07	.32	5.31	7.70
1880	1.27	.56	8.26	10.08
1890	1.40	.46	13.67	15.53
1900	1.28	.39	16.09	17.76
1910	1.43	.63	19.80	21.86

From 1910 to 1916 (the last normal preprohibition year) records variations in the per capita consumption of distilled spirits (due probably to the intensity of statewide prohibition campaigns in certain areas), but with a slight gain on the whole. The per capita consumption of beer followed the same general trend, reaching a high point of 20.66 gallons per capita in 1911, receding slightly in 1912, increasing again in 1913, with relatively large decreases in 1915 and 1916. Total consumption of all forms of alcoholic beverages increased rapidly from 1840 to 1911, with sharp decreases registered from 1912 to 1916.

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## "PRAYER AT EIGHTEEN"

The following lines, written by Margaret Cosgrove, appeared recently in the NEWS published at Preston, Maryland. They express in poignant fashion the suffering of a sensitive soul that not only has experienced the hopelessness of the daily search for work.

"LORD GOD,

"I have walked from agency to agency asking for work, and been refused.

"I have seen men, women and children standing in long lines in front of a stone building awaiting their daily rations.

"I have rested in the public square and seen the seeds of agitation sown in the fertile soil of discouraged minds.

"I have welcomed the temporary respite of relief work, taking dictation from a college-bred man, himself a relief worker, who wrote of 'vocational maladjustment' and the 'minor tragedy of "blind-alley jobs."'

"I have waited upon death in a general hospital where children's very bones were dissolving because of malnutrition.

"I have known young boys with freckles standing out grotesquely against white faces and eyes glassy from hunger asking for 'housework.'

"I have seen college girls, one a Phi Beta Kappa, who, unable to get positions in their chosen vocations, applied for Christmas work in a 5-10-15-cent store---and had even that refused them.

"I have watched hope, ambition, dreams die out of faces, to be replaced by resignation in the old, and by doubt and desperation in the young.

"And I have felt a nameless terror creep into mine.

"LORD GOD,

"Have I, and a million others like me, a destiny?

"And if so, is it worth attaining?"

From INFORMATION SERVICE



## WAS MUNICH A SELL-OUT?

That the European war scare of September was 'a fabricated crisis' and there never was any danger of a general European war resulting from it was the assertion of Harrison Brown, British newspaperman and world traveler in an address to a group of social workers in Indianapolis, on Thursday December 1. Brown has covered many important international conferences at Geneva and other European capitals and is on the inside of European affairs. He bitterly assailed Neville Chamberlain and declared that if the British people knew the facts of the Czech situation "he would not be acclaimed as a hero, but would be sitting in the Tower of London tonight awaiting trial for treason." He based his allegations on the following points.

1. Last summer Chamberlain sent Lord Runciman to Prague to seek a solution to the Sudeten problem. At that time Hitler had never asked that the area be ceded to Germany. Lord Runciman, probably with connivance with the German foreign office, sent to London a report suggesting the partition of Czechoslovakia. On September 1, the London Times, regarded as the mouthpiece of the British foreign office, carried an editorial proposing this solution. When Hitler, in his Nuremberg speech, demanded the Sudeten area he was aware that this solution had already been proposed by Chamberlain's own representatives. Czechoslovakia was partitioned, not in Berlin, but in London.

2. Fascism was in a bad way in both Italy and Germany last summer. Chamberlain and Daladier knew this and faced the necessity of choosing between saving the Hitler and Mussolini regimes or having them overthrown and succeeded by liberal democratic governments or possibly by some form of Socialism. Motivated by the narrowest of class loyalties, they intervened to save Fascism from collapse.

3. Mussolini was not in on the deal. He went to Munich in a panic. Before he left Rome, he was told by King Victor Emmanuel, that if he drew Italy into a European war he would abdicate. Mussolini knew that in such a crisis the Italian army would follow the king. If war had come Mussolini would have welshed on Hitler. His announcement of the withdrawal of 10,000 troops from Spain was a gesture to attempt to placate the democracies.

4. There was no war hysteria in Berlin comparable to that of London and Paris. The German people were anxious no trenches were dug in Unter den Linden and no gas masks were distributed. Hitler had enough tension in Germany and wanted none added.

5. There was trouble on the Siegfried Line. Not only were the fortifications incomplete, but there was considerable sabotage. The Germans admit having executed ten or twelve persons and the probabilities are that the number was considerably greater. Heavy desertions across the line to France are constantly taking place and the French, after their custom, take the uniforms of the deserters and send them back to Germany. Correspondents have seen great bundles of these uniforms going back to Germany.

6. War in Europe is now inevitable. The dictators through the sadism now going on may overplay their hands and break up the accord that has been arranged or German insistence on return of her former colonies may be the rock on which it will break. Chamberlain's interference in the affairs of other governments may cause his overthrow. In that event the only alternative is the "tory die-hard", Winston Churchill, who as prime minister would probably bring Anthony Eden back as foreign minister. Churchill, an ardent imperialist, seeing that extent to which Chamberlain has sacrificed British imperial interests, might call for a showdown with the dictators. Chamberlain hopes that Germany and Russia will fight and knock each other out. But nobody can fight Russia and have a quick war, which the dictators must have. A war with Russia would be a war of attrition and would probably leave all participants demoralized, with resulting upheavals behind their own lines. The most likely outcome is that Hitler may decide that taking the Ukraine from Russia will be too costly. Mussolini, who has nothing to gain from a war with Russia, may be able to persuade him that it is more profitable to at-

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## ON THE SOCIAL FRONTIERS

Charged by Congressman Dies, Chairman of the House Committee Investigating Un-American Activities, with being a 'communist organization', the American Civil Liberties Union, through Arthur Hays Sulzberger, its counsel, wired Chairman Dies, "Your charge that the Union is a communist controlled and carrying on the work of the Community Party under the guise of democracy is wholly without basis. It is just such irresponsible statements as these which have caused the ridicule of your committee which you object. I shall be glad to appear before your committee to acquaint you with the real aims and activities of the Union."

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Magistrate Morris Rothenberg recently declared unconstitutional a New York City ordinance requiring a license for the sale of pamphlets on the street. The test case was that of a street peddler who offered for sale a pamphlet entitled, "John L. Lewis Exposed." When Lewis was informed of the magistrate's decision he gave to it his hearty approval and said, "I hope the members of the CIO may have as much freedom to distribute their handbills and sell their publications as the CIO is willing to accord its enemies."

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The new constitution now being drafted for New York will forbid all forms of discrimination on account of race, color or religion. Section reads, "No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of this state or any subdivision thereof. No person shall, because of race, color, creed or religion, be subjected to any discrimination in his civil right by any person or any firm, corporation or institution, or by this state or any agency or subdivision of the state."

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The National Safety Council reports that 8% of all drivers involved in fatal accidents in 1937 "had been drinking." Of pedestrians involved in fatal accidents 13% "had been drinking" and of those involved in non-fatal accidents 7%. The Council states "Careful research studies, on a small scale, indicate that these percentages from statewide analyses understate the importance of the drinking driver and pedestrian as causes of traffic accidents. These studies show "drinking" percentages of 3 to 5 times as high as the actual tabulation."

## CHURCH GROUPS DEFEND MINORITY RIGHTS

The World Alliance for International Friendship Through the Churches, at its meeting in Larvik, Norway, August 23-29, 1938 passed a resolution urging its members to do everything possible to awaken public opinion to the great evils involved in systematic persecution directed against Jews and thousands of Christians who have kinship with the Jews. The resolution declares, "While acknowledging the weakness, hesitancy and failure of Christians in this matter, (the Council) is appalled by the growth of racial and religious intolerance throughout the world. It holds it to be a total denial of faith in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man as revealed in Jesus Christ and it calls upon all Christians to unite their efforts so that in a distracted and divided world Christ may be made manifest "who is our peace, who hath made both one and hath broken down the middle partition between us."

The Council lists the following points as essential conditions of life for a minority church:

1. Freedom to determine its faith and creed and freedom from any imposition of another philosophy or system or morals.

2. Freedom of public and private worship, preaching, and teaching, and freedom from any imposition of other religious ceremonies or form of worship.

3. Freedom to determine its constitution within the limits of the laws of the state and to administer its own affairs.

4. Freedom to use the mother tongue of its members in divine service, religious instruction and all other activities of church life.

5. Freedom to determine and control the education of its ministers and to decide upon their suitability for service and appointment.

6. Freedom to give religious instruction to their youth on the same conditions as the majority churches and to bring them together in youth associations.

7. Freedom to support and carry on social service, charitable work and missionary activities at home and abroad.

8. Freedom to use all rights open to citizens and associations; e.g., the ownership of necessary property and the collection of funds.

9. Freedom of exchange, cooperation and union with other groups of the same church or with other Christian churches.



tack in the west. Mussolini would stand to gain Corsica, Tunisia, Algiers, Spanish and French Morocco, and domination over Egypt and the Near East. Britain and France may be persuaded to join a four-power consortorium to attack Russia. Japan, stalemated in China, is likely to attack Russia to save her face. In that event she would attempt to persuade Germany to attack in the west.

7. The Second World War began the night a group of Japanese soldiers blew up a section of railroad track outside Mukden in 1931. Sir John Simon, "a weasel minded lawyer in charge of British foreign affairs," "for the meanest of motives" in order to get certain concessions for British firms, played into Japanese hands and the League did nothing about it. In the Ethiopian crisis, the British government, after having made a gesture of defiance with its navy and through economic sanctions, sold out sanctions by continuing to sell oil to Mussolini. Notwithstanding this perfidy, sanctions were seriously effective and when Mussolini was faced with collapse, Britain and France were instrumental in having them lifted. As a result, Britain's imperial line of communications to Egypt, India, and the Far East are gone. Gibraltar is useless and Fascist naval bases on the Canary Islands jeopardize the route around the southern tip of Africa.

8. The United States, Brown declares, could help the situation greatly by doing two things; first, lift the embargo on the Spanish government. The Spanish people are fighting for their very lives. If the United States were to lift the embargo it would impress the European nations and encourage the Spanish government. Previous attempts in this direction were frustrated by a small clique in the State Department, but there is a good chance to get it done now. Second, let the United States stop selling war materials to Japan. China and Spain are two places where the people are fighting a real war of self-defense. "European nations are so engrossed in preparations for their own suicide that they have no war goods to sell to Japan." If the United States should embargo shipments to her she could not carry on.

TRENDS IN LIQUOR (cont'd from page one).

Table II - Per Capita Consumption of Liquor, 1911-1916. In gallons

Year	Spirits	Wines	Beers	Total
1911	1.46	.67	20.66	22.79
1912	1.44	.58	19.96	21.98
1913	1.50	.56	20.62	22.68
1914	1.43	.52	20.54	22.68
1915	1.25	.32	18.24	20.50
1916	1.35	.46	17.59	19.40

There are no available figures for liquor consumption during the prohibition years. Table III shows the per capita consumption of all forms of alcoholic beverages (distilled spirits, wines, and beer) since Repeal. Beer was legalized on Apr. 7, 1933 and the Eighteenth Amendment was repealed on December 5, 1933, which accounts for the low per capita consumption for that year. The increase in consumption was rapid to the end of 1937, but still considerably below the 1916 figure. The decrease for 1938 (fiscal year ending June 30) is the first break in post-repeal liquor trends.

Table III - Per Capita Consumption of Liquor, 1933-1938. In gallons. All forms

1933	1.73	1936	13.20
1934	8.46	1937	14.79
1935	11.51	1938	14.37

Two additional factors should be borne in mind. Rapid increase in population 1840-1916, together with the general increase in per capita consumption over the whole period indicates a huge increase in production over the period, with consequent prosperity for distillers, brewers, and retailers. Second, the figures do not include illicit manufacture, which in the post-repeal period have undoubtedly been very great, estimated by the Federal Alcohol Administrator at one time as equal to the legal production.

Another encouraging factor is the report that the percentage of alcoholic cases to mental hospitals dropped from 4.92 per cent of all first admissions in 1933 to 4.58 per cent in 1935. A light upturn was noted in 1936.